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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/743,461 | 12/23/2003 | Thomas Thoroe Scherb | P24575 | 8138 |

7055 7590 03/31/2006

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1950 ROLAND CLARKE PLACE
RESTON, VA 20191

EXAMINER

HUG, ERIC J

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1731

DATE MAILED: 03/31/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



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| EXAMINER |
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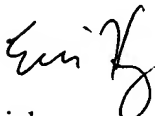
Acknowledgment of Reply Brief

The reply brief filed February 21, 2006 has been entered and considered. The application has been forwarded to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences for decision on the appeal.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric Hug whose telephone number is 571 272-1192.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven Griffin can be reached on 571 272-1189. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


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